

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A mattress comprising coil springs arranged as spring units in covering pockets, said spring units being arranged successively in elongate strings, the mattress comprising a plurality of such interconnected strings arranged side by side, characterised in that at least one spring unit within at least one string has a height that differs from the height of the other spring units within the same string.

2. (Original) A mattress as claimed in claim 1, wherein a plurality of springs in a plurality of strings have a height that differs from the height of the other spring units within each string.

3. (Original) A mattress as claimed in claim 2, wherein the spring units with a deviating height are arranged in a regular, preferably repetitive pattern.

4. (Previously Presented) A mattress as claimed in claim 2, wherein the spring units with a deviating height are arranged in groups of at least two such spring units, which are arranged adjacent to one another.

5. (Previously Presented) A mattress as claimed in claim 2, wherein the strings having spring units with a height that differs from the height of the other spring

units in each string are arranged so that these spring units are offset relative to each other in the longitudinal direction of the strings.

6. (Previously Presented) A mattress as claimed in claim 2, wherein the spring units with a height that differs from the height of the other spring units within each string are arranged so that different zones are formed in the mattress.

7. (Previously Presented) A mattress as claimed in claim 1, wherein the strings are arranged so as to extend in the longitudinal direction of the mattress.

8. (Previously Presented) A mattress as claimed in claim 1, wherein the strings are arranged so as to extend in the transverse direction of the mattress.

9. (Previously Presented) A mattress as claimed in claim 1, wherein essentially all springs of the mattress are essentially identical, the varying height of different spring units resulting in a varied bias of the springs.

10. (Original) A method for manufacturing a mattress, comprising the steps of
arranging coil springs as spring units in individual covering pockets in
succession in elongate strings;

interconnecting such strings side by side,

characterised by the further step of arranging at least one spring unit within at least one string with a height that differs from the height of the other spring units within the same string.

11. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein a plurality of springs in a plurality of strings are arranged with a height that differs from the height of the other spring units within each string.

12. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the spring units with a deviating height are arranged in a regular, preferably repetitive pattern.

13. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the step of interconnecting the strings is carried out so that strings with spring units with a height that differs from the height of the other spring units within each string are arranged so that these spring units are offset relative to each other in the longitudinal direction of the strings.

14. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the step of arranging at least one spring unit within at least one string with a height that differs

from the height of the other spring units within the same string comprises the step of limiting the volume of the covering pocket for said at least one spring unit.

15. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the volume of the covering pocket is limited by providing at least one surface interlocking for the covering, preferably by arranging a weld.

16. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the step of arranging coil springs as spring units in individual covering pockets comprises the steps of

folding a covering material in the longitudinal direction of the string;
arranging welds in the transverse direction for partitioning off covering pockets;
inserting springs into the covering pockets; and
arranging a weld in the longitudinal direction of the string so as to seal the opening of the covering pockets.

17. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the volume of at least one covering pocket is limited by arranging at least one additional weld in the longitudinal direction in said covering pocket.

18. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said additional weld is arranged in the vicinity of said weld in the longitudinal direction of the string so as to seal the opening of the covering pockets.

19. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said additional weld is arranged at a distance from said weld in the longitudinal direction of the string so as to seal the opening of the covering pockets, preferably in an opposite side of the covering pocket.

20. (Original) A device for manufacturing a mattress, comprising means for arranging coil springs as spring units in individual covering pockets in succession in elongate strings, and means for interconnecting such strings side by side, characterised in that it further comprises means for varying the height of at least one spring unit within at least one string relative to the height of the other spring units within the same string.

21. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 20, wherein the means for varying the height of at least one spring unit within at least one string relative to the height of the other spring units within the same string comprises means for limiting the volume of the covering pocket for said at least one spring unit.

22. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 20, wherein the means for arranging coil springs as spring units in individual covering pockets in succession in elongate strings comprises

means for folding a covering material in the longitudinal direction of the string;
first welding equipment for arranging welds in the transverse direction for partitioning off covering pockets;
insertion means for inserting springs into the covering pockets; and
second welding equipment for arranging a weld in the longitudinal direction of the string so as to seal the opening of the covering pockets.

23. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 22, wherein the means for varying the height of at least one spring unit within at least one string relative to the height of the other spring units within the same string comprises means for arranging at least one additional weld in the longitudinal direction in said covering pocket.

24. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 23, wherein means for arranging at least one additional weld in the longitudinal direction in said covering pocket comprises a means for making a relative motion in the transverse direction between the string that is to be welded and the welding equipment.

Application Serial No. 10/521,824
Amendment dated December 1, 2006
Reply to Office Action of November 15, 2006

25. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 24, wherein the means for making a relative motion in the transverse direction between the string that is to be welded and the welding equipment comprises a movable supporting table for supporting the string during welding.

26. (Original) A device as claimed in claim 24, wherein the means for making a relative motion in the transverse direction between the string that is to be welded and the welding equipment comprises displaceable welding equipment.